

AGENDA 2nd Regional Dialogue on Access to Elections for Persons with Disabilities
“Strengthening Democracy – Removing Barriers towards Full Participation of
Persons with Disabilities in Elections”

Bali, Indonesia, 10 – 11 November 2012

PROGRAM

DAY 1 (Saturday, 10th November 2012)

Open at 8.30 Grand Ballroom	Registration
9.00 – 9.30	<p>OPENING CEREMONY Brief Report to the Minister: Gufroni Sakaril, President, Indonesia Disabled People’s Association <i>(Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia, PPCI)</i></p> <p>Welcome Speech: Yusfitriadi, National Coordinator, the People’s Voter Education Network <i>(Jaringan Pendidikan Pemilih untuk Rakyat, JPPR)</i> Dr. Andrew Sisson, Mission Director, United States Agency for International Development, USAID/Indonesia</p> <p>Opening Speech: H.E. Ambassador Hasan Kleib, Director General for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia</p>
9.30 – 10.00	Photo session
10.00 – 10.30	Press conference and exhibition Morning Break
10.30 – 10.35	Safety briefing
10.35 – 11.05	<p>Keynote Speech: H.E. Navanethem Pillay, High Commissioner, UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights*</p>
11.05 – 12.05	<p>Plenary Session 1: Political participation of persons with disabilities: Challenges, opportunities and lessons learned from around the world</p> <p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees that every person regardless their background is entitled the rights of participating in political and public life directly or through freely chosen representatives. Article 21 of the Declaration explains that the will of the people <i>‘shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.’</i> This was strengthened in 1966, when Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) emphasized the right <i>to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors</i> without any distinctions or unreasonable restrictions.</p> <p>Article 29 of the CRPD Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has made it clear that there are two essential parts of the rights to participation in</p>

political and public life: first, that the state parties have to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully participate in political and public life through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected; and second, persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs without discrimination.

While the principle of equal rights and inclusive elections is thus firmly grounded in popular international instruments, international experience translating those rights into reality has been mixed at best for persons with disabilities. Yet, there have been some encouraging developments. This session is dedicated to sharing ideas on how persons with disabilities outside and inside the ASEAN region have exercised their rights. Panelists will present how innovation has happened and the leading roles played by persons with disabilities and/or government officials in the process.

Chair:

Kyle Lemargie, Senior Programs and Research Specialist, Southeast Asia, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, IFES

Speakers:

Michael Bergmann, Director Governance Policy and A/g Principal Sector Specialist Governance, Australian Agency for International Development, AusAID

Manuel V. Agcaoili, Chairman, *Alyansa Ng May Kapansanang Pinoy*, AKAP - PINOY

Tika Dahal, General Secretary, National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, NFDN

12.05 – 13.05

Waterfall
Restaurant

Lunch

Plenary Session 2 and 3: Election access for all: Sharing experiences on existing barriers and approaches to make elections accessible for persons with different types of disabilities

Having an accessible election means that every person with disability (regardless of her/his type of disability) can cast her/his ballot independently in the polling station in a free and fair election. It is necessary then for the EMB to understand how to conduct accessible elections and what important requirements or assistive tools they should provide for each type of disability. This session is dedicated to exploring accommodation so that each voter can exercise their right to vote.

Session 2 focuses on sharing experiences on the barriers encountered by persons with physical and sensory disabilities. For example, what arrangements are necessary for people with vision, hearing and mobility impairments. **Session 3** will talk about how to make elections inclusive of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

In between of the sessions, AGENDA will show a short video on this topic.

13.05 – 14.05

Plenary Session 2: Voters with physical and sensory disabilities

Chair:

	<p>Nouaneta Latsavongxay, Manager – the Disability Rights Promotion Unit, Lao Disabled People's Association, LDPA</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Dr. Ferry Kurnia Rizkiyansyah, Commissioner, General Election Commission (<i>Komisi Pemilihan Umum</i>, KPU), EMB Indonesia</p> <p>Rene Vergara Sarmiento, Commissioner, Commission on Elections (COMELEC), EMB Philippines</p>
14.05 – 14.15	AGENDA Video: Simulation of an Accessible Election
14.15 – 15.15	<p>Plenary Session 3: Voters with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Virginia Atkinson, Disability Inclusion Program Officer, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, IFES</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>J. Patrick Clarke, Chief Executive, Down Syndrome Ireland</p> <p>David Clarke, Self-advocate, Down Syndrome Ireland</p> <p>Yoshikazu Ikehara, Senior Attorney, Tokyo Advocacy Law Office</p>
15.15 – 15.30	Afternoon break
15.30 – 16.20 Grand Ballroom	<p>Breakout Session 1: Voter registration: Study from the Philippines</p> <p>Voter registration is the very first encounter persons with disabilities have with the elections process. Unfortunately, many problems are known to occur at this stage. Some persons with disabilities never receive information about registration. Those that do are sometimes discouraged to register by family or friends. Some are turned away because they lack the necessary identification documents to register. Some provide information about their disability during the registration process but this does not make its way into the planning documents for election officials or the accessibility arrangements for the polling stations. The purpose of this session is discussing ways to improve voter registration procedures so that they are a successful first point of entry for people with disabilities into the election process.</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Josephine Santillan De Vera, President, <i>Katipunan Ng Maykapansanan Sa Pilipinas</i>, KAMPI</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Rene Vergara Sarmiento, Commissioner, Commission on Elections (COMELEC), EMB Philippines</p> <p>Manuel V. Agcaoili, Chairman, <i>Alyansa Ng May Kapansanang Pinoy</i>, AKAP - PINOY</p>
15.30 – 16.20 Kuta & Legian Rooms	<p>Breakout Session 2: Strategies to engage with Election Management Bodies (EMBs)</p> <p>Many DPOs do not have experience yet in engaging with EMBs. Promoting and advocating for political rights is still considered as new initiative in the disabilities movement. Through this session DPOs will discuss strategies and share experience on how to best engage with EMBs. EMB participants are encouraged to take part in this session.</p> <p>Chair:</p>

	<p>Mochammad Afifuddin, AGENDA Program Manager, the People’s Voter Education Network (<i>Jaringan Pendidikan Pemilih untuk Rakyat</i>, JPPR)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Hadar N. Gumay, Commissioner, General Election Commission (<i>Komisi Pemilihan Umum</i>, KPU), EMB Indonesia</p> <p>Hj. Ariani Soekanwo, Chairperson, the Center for Election Access of Citizens with Disabilities (<i>Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akses Penyandang Cacat</i>, PPUA PENCA)</p> <p>Nasandelger Z., Program Manager – FIELD II, Mercy Corps Mongolia</p>
<p>15.30 – 16.20 Octopus Restaurant</p>	<p>Breakout Session 3: Persons with disabilities: Becoming a candidate</p> <p>Article 29 UN CRPD states that <i>(a) Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected.</i> However, the right and opportunity to be elected is still considered as a challenging area where persons with disabilities feel like it is ‘not for them.’ Likewise, the political system has yet to fully accommodate this right.</p> <p>The stigma that persons with disabilities are not capable in public arena because of their disability is still strong. Many times the regulation hinders this participation for example by stating that a candidate should be someone who is in ‘good health.’ It is instructive to see how persons with disabilities who have succeeded in winning public office encountered challenges along the way, and what strategies they used to overcome these challenges. As organizations that often nominate, prepare and support candidates it is critical that political parties are part of the conversation.</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Bathmavathi Krishnan, Program Manager, Malaysia Confederation of the Disabled, MCD</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Hj. Anni Juwairiyah, Former Member of Regional House Representative; Chairperson for East Kalimantan, Indonesia Disabled People’s Association (<i>Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia</i>, PPCI)</p> <p>Siswanda H. Sumarto, Deputy Secretary-General, National Mandate Party (<i>Partai Amanat Nasional</i>, PAN)</p>
<p>16.20 – 16.50 Grand Ballroom</p>	<p>Plenary Session 4: Report back to the Plenary</p> <p>This session will give an overview of the three breakout sessions and provide a wrap up of the day.</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Riri Rafiani, AGENDA Program Officer, the Center for Election Access of Citizens with Disabilities (<i>Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akses Penyandang Cacat</i>, PPUA PENCA)</p>
<p>16.50 – 17.00</p>	<p>Closing and Announcements</p>
<p>18.30 – 21.00 Balinese Theatre</p>	<p>Cultural Dinner</p>

DAY 2 (Sunday, 11th November 2012)

**Open at 8.30
Grand Ballroom**

Registration (Day Two)

9.00 – 10.00

Plenary Session 5: ASEAN Decade for Persons with Disabilities: Bridging ASEAN communities in the decade's designs for political participation

Last year, ten ASEAN countries proudly announced the Decade of Person with Disabilities 2011 – 2020. Within the three pillars of ASEAN the issue of persons with disabilities is under the social cultural pillar especially as one of the responsibilities of the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD). As the Decade only started a year ago, DPOs and other disability stakeholders in the region need to discuss how working together they can leverage the Decade for the expansion and fulfillment of rights. Examples of broad questions to put forward are what should the disability community do to ensure the CRPD is ratified in all ten countries, what are the respective roles of countries and ASEAN bodies in implementing the Decade, and since ASEAN will soon be one community, what can PwDs and disabled people organizations (DPOs) contribute to it – what platform can be used to make this contribution?

On the specific topic of inclusive in political processes for people with disabilities, stakeholders and policy makers need to know what approaches exist within ASEAN for bridging the conversation on disability happening in the social cultural pillar with the conversation on human rights happening under ASEAN's political security pillar. What new mechanisms or policies can be designed to ensure that this important dialogue takes place between pillars and how can DPOs play an active role?

Chair:

Nguyen Hong Ha, Project Director, Hanoi Independent Living Centre, HILC

Speakers:

Dr. Makmur Sunusi, Ph.D, Senior Adviser to Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Saowalak Thongkuay, Regional Development Officer, Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific Region, DPI/AP

10.00 – 11.00

Plenary Session 6: The AHRD (ASEAN Human Rights Declaration): Implications for persons with disabilities

The AHRD is coming. The declaration will be in November this year during the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. Civil Society, including persons with disabilities in the region, has made vigorous statements and actions supporting the establishment of the Declaration. Many also submitted their recommendation to AICHR (ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights). All parties want the Declaration to serve as a solid foundation for representing the rights of the people in ten ASEAN member states. To date there has been mixed impressions of the document including doubts that it will cover all the rights and meet the standards of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), as well as hopes that in some areas of ASEAN consensus it may even reach further than the UDHR in protecting the rights of ASEAN citizens.

How will the Declaration address the rights of persons with disabilities? Will it specifically address the rights of persons with disabilities? Does it have general

principles that are important to persons with disabilities, for example the principal of equality, accessibilities and reasonable accommodation? What recourse is open to ASEAN's disabilities community if the document fails to address their rights? How can disabled people's organizations and persons with disabilities use the AHRD to their benefit?

Chair:

Saowalak Thongkuay, Regional Development Officer, Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific Region, DPI/AP

Speakers:

Rafendi Djamin, Representative of Indonesia to the ASEAN

Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) – *via video*

Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Senior Advisor on ASEAN and Human Rights, Human Rights Working Group of Indonesia's NGO Coalition for International Human Rights Advocacy, HRWG

11.00 – 11.15

Morning Break

11.15 – 12.15

Plenary Session 7: AGENDA Monitoring Guidelines: Findings and lessons learned

During the project period AGENDA managed to observe five local elections in Indonesia and two outside the country (Cambodia and Malaysia). Insights from these experiences motivated the project to establish a set of guideline for monitoring election accessibility. AGENDA will use this session to present the guidelines and discuss the main barriers AGENDA observers encountered. A DPO as well as an EMB from outside the region will share their insights on monitoring election accessibility and using findings to improve election management.

Chair:

Hasnah binti Hashim, AGENDA Researcher, Malaysians for Free and Fair Election, MAFREL

Speaker:

Mochammad Afifuddin, AGENDA Program Manager, the People's Voter Education Network (*Jaringan Pendidikan Pemilih untuk Rakyat*, JPPR)

Ichal Supriadi, Executive Director, Asian Network for Free Election, ANFREL

Daniel Zuchron, Member, the Election Supervisory Body of Indonesia (*Badan Pengawas Pemilihan Umum*, Bawaslu)

12.15 – 13.15

**Waterfall
Restaurant**

Lunch

13.15 – 14.15

Grand Ballroom

Breakout Session 1: Research possibilities on disability and elections

Much more research is needed to inform the policy discussion on inclusive elections for people with disabilities. From the AGENDA project's interviews with key stakeholders across the region, we can see that barriers to participation can vary from the absence of progressive laws and regulations to the exclusion-tolerant perceptions held by persons with disabilities who have never been exposed to their rights. Lack of assistive tools can also create barriers to participation as voters with disabilities do not feel comfortable casting their ballot. There is also innovative new thinking and even testing of ideas to overcome these barriers. This session is a place to explore how research might play a larger role in identifying barriers and designing and testing solutions. AGENDA will also present its research findings

during the session.

Chair:

Kyle Lemargie, Senior Programs and Research Specialist, Southeast Asia, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, IFES

Speakers:

Dr. Derrick L. Cogburn, Executive Director, Institute on Disability and Public Policy, American University

Yoshikazu Ikehara, Senior Attorney, Tokyo Advocacy Law Office

Ancilla Yinny Sakanti Irwan, AGENDA Lead Researcher, the Center for Election Access of Citizens with Disabilities (*Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akses Penyandang Cacat*, PPUA PENCA)

13.15 – 14.15
Kuta & Legian
Rooms

Breakout Session 2: AGENDA's training manual for EMBs

During the monitoring missions AGENDA had the opportunity to interact and discuss access issues with EMBs at the national and local level. This manual covers human rights, disability and accessible elections. EMBs can use this information to develop trainings for poll workers on how to administer the vote to persons with disabilities. Through this interactive session participants will preview the manual and provide valuable input.

Chair:

Masykuruddin Hafidz, AGENDA Program Officer, the People's Voter Education Network (*Jaringan Pendidikan Pemilih untuk Rakyat*, JPPR)

Speaker:

Happy Sebayang, AGENDA Program Manager, the Center for Election Access of Citizens with Disabilities (*Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akses Penyandang Cacat*, PPUA PENCA)

13.15 – 14.15
Octopus
Restaurant

Breakout Session 3: How to maintain a sustainable and functioning network

As a project, AGENDA will finish in early 2013. However, as much remains to be done in this new field, especially at the regional level, the network needs to identify potential strategies to keep the dialogue going and the network functioning. Important question include how the network could contribute to ASEAN Decade on Persons with Disabilities, and how the network could connect to other ASEAN networks in the enhancement of role and participation of persons with disabilities.

Chair:

Yusdiana, AGENDA Disability Rights Advisor, Indonesia Disabled People's Association (*Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia*, PPCI)

Speakers:

Saowalak Thongkuay, Regional Development Officer, Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific Region, DPI/AP

Ichal Supriadi, Executive Director, Asian Network for Free Election, ANFREL

Ngin Saorath, Executive Director, Cambodia Disabled People's Organization, CDPO

14.15 – 14.45

Plenary Session 8: Report back to the Plenary

This session will give an overview of the three breakout sessions.

	Chair: Dipo Siahaan , AGENDA Program Officer, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, IFES
14.45 – 15.00	Afternoon Break
15.00 – 15.45	Plenary Session 9: Bali Commitments on political rights of persons with disabilities in ASEAN countries Facilitators: Yusdiana , AGENDA Disability Rights Advisor, Indonesia Disabled People’s Association (<i>Persatuan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia</i> , PPCI) Bathmavathi Krishnan , Malaysia Confederation of the Disabled, MCD Josephine de Vera , President, <i>Katipunan Ng Maykapansanan Sa Pilipinas</i> , KAMPI
15.45 – 15.55	Plenary Session 10: Conference participant evaluation Facilitator: Ancilla Yinny Sakanti Irwan , AGENDA Lead Researcher, the Center for Election Access of Citizens with Disabilities (<i>Pusat Pemilihan Umum Akses Penyandang Cacat</i> , PPUA PENCA)
15.55 – 16.00	Closing Ceremony Closing speech: Michael Svetlik , Vice President, Programs, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, IFES
18.30 – 21.00	Dinner
Waterfall Restaurant	

Conference Language: English

* Need to be confirmed